

**HOW DID THE UNITED STATES LAUNCH  
THE AGGRESSIVE WAR IN KOREA?**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Pyongyang, May, 1967



*(Translation from Korean text)*

On June 25, 1950, the U.S. imperialists instigated the puppet regime in South Korea to launch an all-out armed attack against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the purpose of bringing the whole of Korea under their colonial domination.

When the South Korean puppet clique launched an armed aggression on the whole area along the 38th parallel, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly demanded the aggressors to stop the reckless hostilities immediately with the sole aim of preventing the disaster of a fratricidal war.

The aggressors, however, turned a deaf ear to this and stepped up their military action.

Unable to bear this situation any longer, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took decisive measures to repel the aggressors.

When the South Korean puppet army suffered a crushing defeat and its plot to swallow the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at one gulp ended in failure before the heroic counter-attack of the Korean People's Army, the United States started a large-scale armed aggression under the pretext of "self-defence police action".

Having occupied South Korea since the end of the Second World War, the United States had hampered the peaceful unification of Korea and had long prepared armed invasion against North Korea with a view to turning the whole Korea not only into a colony but also into a spring-board to attack the Asian continent and the socialist countries.

That the United States had long prepared and finally launched the war was established by the incessant clamours of the South Korean puppet clique for the "northward expedition", by the deployment of its massive troops along the 38th parallel long before it started the war on June 25 thereby making frequent provocative attacks against the areas north of the 38th parallel, by the instructions on provoking a war given by the U.S. warmonger, Dulles who visited South Korea immediately before the war, by a host of confidential documents obtained by the Korean People's Army from the secret archives of the South Korean puppet government when Seoul was liberated, by the testimonies made by high-ranking officials of the South Korean puppet government and by

many other facts.

In his confidential letter of April 10, 1949, to his special envoy Cho Byong Ok then staying in America, the then South Korean puppet President, Syngman Rhee, wrote: "I think you should frankly discuss this situation in fullest confidence with high officials of both the United Nations and the United States... As a matter of fact, we are ready for the unification now in every respect but, one, namely, we lack arms and ammunition... And we need them now" (from the documents found by the Korean People's Army in the secret archives of the puppet government when Seoul was liberated).

In his confidential letter of June 18, 1949 to Syngman Rhee, Peong Koo Yoon, adviser to the South Korean puppet President on foreign affairs, said as follows:

"I just returned from the American Embassy where I had a very cordial conversation with Mr. John Muccio (the then U.S. Ambassador to Seoul)... about U.S. aid with air and ocean fleets in case we have to fight.

"On the matter of aid to be given us with U.S. air and ocean fleets in case we have to fight the North Bear, Mr. Muccio said he would do the cultivation work for the matter with his Government so that things shall be ready in case we need" (from the documents found by the Korean People's Army in the secret archives of the puppet government when Seoul was liberated).

In his confidential letter dated September 30, 1949, to his American political adviser Robert T. Oliver, the South Korean puppet President stated: "...One thing is that I want to tell you briefly concerning our situation.

"I feel strongly that now is the most psychological moment when we should take an aggressive measure..

"Then our line of defence must be strengthened along the Tumen and Yalu Rivers. We will be in a 100 per cent better position.

"I am sure we can settle this question within a reasonable short time if we are only allowed to do it" (from the confidential documents found by the Korean People's Army in the secret archives of Syngman Rhee when Seoul was liberated).

On January 11, 1950 John M. Chang, South Korean Ambassador to the United States, wrote a letter to Syngman Rhee, which reads in part:

"This letter is being prepared... so that I may give you some encouraging news which I have received confidentially from a top level, reliable source in the Pentagon. I am informed that the State Department and the Pentagon are planning a firm stand with respect to the U.S. Oriental policy. In this anti-Communist plan Korea will occupy an important position.

"I have every hope that we will get much more help, militarily speaking, as a result. I have had word from confidential source in the State Department that President Truman will sign, very soon, authorization which will grant permission for armament for Korean ships and planes" (from the confidential documents found by the Korean People's Army in the secret archives of the puppet government when Seoul was liberated).

The above confidential documents give some light as to how the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets had made preparations to unleash the war.

According to the testimony made by Moon Hak Pong, former advisor to the CIC under the U.S. military government and political adviser to the South Korean puppet President, Syngman Rhee visited the U.S. Far East Command in Japan in February 1950 and returned with specific instructions from MacArthur on starting armed invasion against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not later than July of that year.

Kim Hyo Suk, former Minister of the Interior of the South Korean puppet government, made the following testimony:

"In January 1950, Royal, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence, and Sebald, Chief of the Public Relations Division of the MacArthur's Headquarters, visited Seoul, when the latter said to Syngman Rhee: 'In the event of the expedition against the north, American warships and airplanes in Japan will take part in the battle on the side of South Korea; and as far as naval and air forces are concerned, you have nothing to worry about at all'.

"In February, Syngman Rhee visited Tokyo, where he signed a secret agreement on the so-called 'northern expedition' with MacArthur, who personally ordered him to kindle the flames of a civil war.

On June 17, Dulles, adviser to the U.S. State Department, arrived in Korea, and carefully inspected the 38th parallel. Speaking before the National Defence Army personnel, he greatly encouraged the soldiers...

"After his return to Seoul, Dulles, gave Syngman Rhee and Shin Sung Mo final instructions to start an immediate attack on the north, as the time was ripe to do so, 'Start the aggression against the north accompanied by a counter-propaganda on the grounds that the north has invaded the south first. If you can but hold out for two weeks, everything will go on smoothly, for during this period, the United States, by accusing north Korea of attacking south Korea, will compel the United Nations to take action in whose name, land, naval and air forces would be mobilized'. This was what Dulles said:

"At midnight, June 24, Syngman Rhee in carrying out the orders of his American masters started the invasion to the north of the 38th pa-

rallel".

The United States had done everything in its power to reinforce the South Korean army until it launched the Korean war.

Even according to the official data of the U.S. government, the United States provided South Korea with weapons worth 190 million dollars in 1949 alone.

On January 26, 1950, the United States concluded the "ROK-U.S. Mutual Defence and Aid Agreement" with the South Korean puppet government as part of its war preparations.

On May 9, 1950, shortly before the provocation of the Korean war, Johnson, former chief of the "E.C.A." office in South Korea, testified before the U.S. House Appropriations Committee that "100,000 men and officers of the South Korean army armed with U.S. weapons and trained by Americans have wound up preparations and are ready to start war at any moment".

While making war preparations in this way, the United States and the South Korean puppet clique had long since started committing acts of aggression against the D.P.R.K. in practice.

Before launching the all-out war, they had intruded into the territory north of the 38th parallel thousands of times, kidnapping the inhabitants, setting fire to peasant houses, plundering them of their property, killing guiltless people and perpetrating other provocative acts.

In 1949 alone, cases of such armed intrusion amounted to 1,836. The following are the few examples.

On February 2-4, 1949, in the general area of Hyonbuk sub-county, Yangyang county, Gangwon Province, more than 1,300 troops of the South Korean puppet 10th Regiment and police occasionally attacked and occupied Gosanbong hill and many other places north of the 38th parallel with the support of mortars and heavy and light machine-guns, although they were repulsed by the constabularies of our Republic.

During the period from May 4 to 7, 1949, approximately 4,200 troops of the South Korean puppet army and police attacked the area of Mt. Songak, Ryongnam sub-county, Jangpung county, Hwanghai Province, and captured the mountain, but were repulsed by the constabularies of our Republic. The battles continued later in this area.

On the dawn of June 7, 1949, about four battalions of the South Korean puppet 1st Division intruded into the area of Ongjin county, Hwanghai Province, and were repulsed after a severe battle with the constabularies of our Republic.

On August 18, 1949, six South Korean puppet battleships invaded into the harbour of Monggumpo north of the 38th parallel and bombarded the town before carrying away one of the guard ships of our Republic.

During the period from January to September 1949, 208 inhabitants were killed and wounded and 1,340 others kidnapped in the territory of North Korea as a result of the intrusions of the South Korean puppet army and police.

On June 9, 1950, the area along the 38th parallel and the whole of South Korea were placed under "special surveillance and guard", on June 11 an operational order was issued by South Korea's "Army Headquarters" to declare a state of emergency, and on June 13 "quasi-emergency martial law" was proclaimed.

In this situation, Johnson, U.S. Secretary of Defence, and Bradley, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, came to Tokyo in mid-June 1950, and held a series of special secret meetings concerning the launching of the Korean war with MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Far East Command.

In the wake of this, that notorious warmonger, John Foster Dulles, personally flew into South Korea on June 17, 1950, with the mission of lighting the fuze to the war. After inspecting the 38th parallel on June 18 and making the final examination of the "northward expedition" plan in a trench, Dulles clamoured that "the United States is ready to render both material and moral aid to South Korea fighting against Communism" and that "the Communists would eventually lose their domination over North Korea" (Seoul, Jun. 19, 1950—UP).

And in his letter dated June 20 to Syngman Rhee upon his leaving Korea, Dulles said: "I attach great importance to the decisive role which your country can play in the great drama that is unfolding" (from documents found by the Korean People's Army in the secret archives of the South Korean puppet government when Seoul was liberated).

After returning to Japan from South Korea, Dulles had a long talk with MacArthur on June 22, 1950, and declared that the United States would take a "positive action" "to preserve peace in the Far East" (*New York Times*, Jun. 22, 1950).

As to what Dulles meant by the "positive action" I.F. Stone, an American journalist, wrote in his book **Hidden History of the Korean War**.

"This was on June 22. The 'positive action' which followed was the outbreak of war in Korea on June 25 and the commitment of the American government to large-scale intervention against Communism in the Pacific area on June 27" (I.F. Stone, **Hidden History of the Korean War**, New York, 1952).

This is, in general, how U.S. imperialism unleashed the war in Korea.

Having provoked an aggressive war in Korea, the United States in an attempt to cover up its heinous criminal act as prearranged, mobilized

all its propaganda machines and clamoured that the war had been started by the "unprovoked attack" from the North.

But the U.S. imperialists could not produce any evidence whatever of their allegation.

The United States had only a telegramme manufactured by its ambassador and the "United Nations Commission on Korea," the tool of U.S. imperialist aggression, in Seoul, by which the United States forced the U.N. Security Council to adopt the illegal resolution on armed intervention in Korea in the name of the United Nations. This is a criminal act of utterly violating the important provisions of Chapter V "The Security Council", Chapter VI "Pacific Settlement of Disputes" and Chapter VII "...Action with Respect to Acts of Aggression" of the U.N. Charter.

The resolution was concocted arbitrarily and unfoundedly without any material evidence as to how the war had broken out in Korea, without any on-the-spot investigation.

The resolution was manufactured without the representative of the D.P.R.K., the victim of aggression, taking part in the discussion.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors acted in this way for the fear that the truth of their provocation of the war should be brought to light if the testimony of the representative of the Korean people was heard and the on-the-spot investigation conducted.

The resolution was adopted even in violation of the principle of unanimous vote of all the permanent members of the Security Council.

It has been thoroughly exposed more glaringly by many other facts revealed later that the United States is the very originator of the aggressive war in Korea.

According to the **New York Herald Tribune**, an American daily, dated June 26, 1950, the United States "had already prepared ships for an immediate evacuation of the U.S. Army officers' and others' families" from South Korea on the eve of the war, and the same daily wrote on August 26, 1950 that the U.S. authorities "had evacuated 650 American women aboard a Norwegian boat from Inchon two or three hours before the outbreak of the war".

These facts clearly show that the U.S. imperialists prepared and launched the war in Korea according to prearranged plans.

John Gunther, an American journalist, writes that he went on an excursion with some officers from the MacArthur Headquarters in Japan on June 25, 1950 and around noon one of the officers who had had an urgent phone call from the Headquarters told him that "it's a big news. The Republic of Korea Army has attacked North Korea" (John Gunther, **The Riddle of MacArthur**, New York, 1951).

Even though the United States clamoured about the "unprovoked

attack" from the North, the fact was revealed during the discussion on the State Department budget at the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee on June 5, 1951, that the State Department had already drafted even before the outbreak of the war the "resolution" on the "Korean war" to be submitted to the United Nations.

John Hickerson, the then Assistant Secretary of State for United Nations Affairs, was answering questions raised by Senator Ferguson that day. At first he alleged that the United States was "attacked" in Korea without any "warning", but when the debate became heated it was proved to be a lie. Then he remarked that, in fact, the State Department had already decided to take this "question" to the "United Nations" before the outbreak of the Korean war. He confessed as follows:

"We knew in general what we were going to say" and "we had drawn up the skeleton of a resolution" (L.F. Stone, **Hidden History of the Korean War**, New York, 1952).

Earlier, during the hearing of the testimony in connection with MacArthur's dismissal held at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in May 1951, another interesting fact was disclosed.

While referring to the situation at the time of the outbreak of the war, MacArthur stated that "the Republic of Korea kept its supplies and equipment right close to the 38th parallel. They had not built rear positions" (U.S. Congressional Records).

This notwithstanding, putting up as one of the important data for covering up the fact that the United States and the South Korean puppet clique had attacked first, the "U.N. Commission on Korea" in its "report" submitted to the United Nations asserted that "in the whole area along the 38th parallel, the Republic of Korea forces were disposed entirely in a defensive battle array" and "they were deployed in echelon in all areas."

This is enough to prove that the "UNCK" report was a downright lie.

According to the Indian paper **Crossroads** dated December 22, 1950, Colonel Heida, who was at the MacArthur Headquarters at that time of the outbreak of the Korean war and then worked as a U.S. military adviser in Iran, boastfully stated on two occasions, while addressing the representatives of Iranian Army staff and students of the Iranian military academy, that the Korean war had been ignited by the South Korean army under direct orders from the U.S. Army Headquarters in Japan.

The U.S. magazine **Life** said: "We have never seen in any war throughout our history such extensive preparations as made at the time of the outbreak of the war" (**Life**, Aug. 1950).

The aggressive war was unleashed by the U.S. Imperialists in Korea as part of their plan for a total aggression against the socialist countries

pertinaciously pursued by them since the end of the Second World War.

Particularly, confronted with the postwar economic crisis, the U.S. monopoly capitalists needed a war somewhere.

American magazine **U.S. News and World Report** had this to say:

"The war in Korea has opened up a period of new boom. A situation has been created in which business can be maintained on a high level as if so ordered... The Korean war got rid of the spectre of crisis that has haunted U.S. businessmen stubbornly since the end of World War II" (**U.S. News and World Report**, Aug. 1951).

Van Fleet, U.S. 8th Army Commander during the Korean war, openly declared: "The Korean war was a blessing. Korea was needed here or elsewhere in the world" (**New York Journal and American**, Jan. 19, 1959).

Such is the truth of the U.S. provocation of the aggressive war in Korea.

Instead of drawing lessons from their ignominious defeat in the Korean war, the U.S. imperialists are creating the same grave situation as in 1950 by perpetrating all sorts of military provocations in an attempt to unleash another war in Korea.

The Korean people maintain sharp vigilance and are fully prepared to shatter any aggressive acts of the U.S. imperialists by annihilating blows.

For the sake of Korean unification and Asian peace, the U.S. imperialist aggression forces should get out of South Korea without delay.